Sentence Detective Sort

Find complete sentences and fragments.

5.L.GC.2 "Syntax: Apply understandings of sentence structure to comprehend and compose varied sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence has a subject and a predicate. It shares a complete thought.

Dolphins leap beside boats.

FRAGMENT

A fragment is not a complete sentence. It may be missing a subject, an action, or a complete thought.

During winter storms.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle the category for each item; for Part 2, choose two items and explain what makes each a sentence or a fragment.

1.	The lantern glowed in the fog.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
2.	My cousin builds model rockets.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
3.	After the final bell.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
4.	A noisy squirrel raced across the fence.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
5.	Beneath the kitchen table.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
6.	While the baby slept.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
7.	Our class planted sunflowers yesterday.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
8.	Because the trail was muddy.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new SENTENCE and one new FRAGMENT.

SENTENCE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one fragment from Part 1 and revise it into a complete sentence. Underline the words you added.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Detective Sort

GRADE 5 · 5.L.GC.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The lantern glowed in the fog.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject, "lantern," and a predicate, "glowed in the fog," and it expresses a complete thought.
2	My cousin builds model rockets.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete thought.
3	After the final bell.	**FRAGMENT**	It is a phrase that does not tell what happened after the bell.
4	A noisy squirrel raced across the fence.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject, "squirrel," and a predicate and expresses a complete thought.
5	Beneath the kitchen table.	**FRAGMENT**	It tells where, but it does not have an action or a complete thought.
6	While the baby slept.	**FRAGMENT**	It has a subject and action, but "while" leaves the thought unfinished.
7	Our class planted sunflowers yesterday.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete thought.
8	Because the trail was muddy.	**FRAGMENT**	It begins with "because," so it leaves the reader waiting to learn what happened.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SENTENCE**: The painter mixed bright colors.
- **FRAGMENT**: Across the empty field.

Challenge: Because the trail was muddy, we wore boots.

For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify a complete thought, a subject and predicate, or what is missing from a fragment. Part 3 responses may vary if each example matches its category.